

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (new): A method to provide a resource adapter that collaborates with an application server to provide services offered by an enterprise information system (EIS), comprising:

packaging a deployment descriptor into the resource adapter; and
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deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor.

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the method operation of deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor includes,

configuring the resource adapter in the target operational environment to create a connection to an instance of the EIS.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the method operation of deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor includes,

configuring application server mechanisms for transaction management.

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the method operation of deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor includes,

configuring security in the target operational environment.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the method operation of packaging includes,

packaging interfaces, implementation classes, utility classes, native libraries, and descriptive meta information into the resource adapter.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the target operational environment is selected from the group consisting of an application server and a Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) application.

Claim 18 (new): A system to provide a resource adapter that collaborates with an application server to provide services offered by an enterprise information system (EIS), comprising:

a connector provider to create the resource adapter, the connector specifying a deployment descriptor in the resource adapter; and

a deployer to deploy the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor.

Claim 19 (new): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes a connector, the connector enabling connections to the EIS.

Claim 20 (new): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes connector contracts between the connector provider and the deployer.

Claim 21 (new): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes declarative information enabling the deployer to deploy the resource adapter into the target operational environment.

Claim 22 (new): The system of claim 18, wherein the resource adapter includes interfaces, implementation classes, utility classes, native libraries, and descriptive meta information.